

As there is plenty of first-hand material on the Yakuts, I should like to say a few words on the Yakut children, a subject which is usually overlooked. The following is a brief sketch of a typical Yakut child's career, without insisting on details. We may distinguish six different steps in the life of a Yakut child. The first is the beginning of the infant period where the child is still quite helpless and dependent on others; a second grade begins with the third month, where the infant starts sitting and also understands some words; the third grade begins at an age of six months in which the infants begin to crawl around. This period is ended with the third year of life; then their independence grows steadily. At the age of ten the children are considered as half adults and share the life of the grown-up. The sixth stage is puberty, an age during which they are not treated too well by their parents. Girls then have to take up the not always enviable role of women, however reluctant they may be at that.